

Devon Strategic Partnership Delivery Board

2nd August 2007

Sustainable Community Strategy & 2008-2011 Devon LAA Project Progress Report

Recommendations:

(i) That Delivery Board notes the progress made on the Sustainable Community Strategy/LAA Project, particularly the Vision for Devon (Appendix A) and the Long-List of Priorities for Devon (Appendix B);

(ii) That Delivery Board agrees the activities planned over the next month, particularly outcome and action planning (section 4.2);

(iii) That Delivery Board approves the Communication Plan for the project (Appendix C), including Delivery Board members role in communicating information about the project to their individual organisations; and

(iv) That Delivery Board considers the implications of the project issues and risks outlined in section 5.

1. Introduction

Delivery Board approved the project definition document (PDD) for the Sustainable Community Strategy/LAA Project at their meeting on 1 June 2007. The PDD included a requirement to report on progress to the Delivery Board on a monthly basis. A progress report was circulated to Delivery Board on 29 June 2007, this paper sets out the progress made since that date and activities planned up until the next Delivery Board meeting on 7 September 2007.

2. Project Status

The project is currently on schedule and within budget. See section 5 on project issues, risks and comments for further detail.

3. Activities This Period

Time Period Covered: 29 June 2007 – 25 July 2007

3.1 Stages 1 & 2 – Evaluation and Evidence Base

These stages are now complete – see the Devon Strategic Partnership website (www.devonsp.org.uk) for further details.

3.2 Stage 3 – Visioning

This stage is now complete – the Vision was agreed by majority. See Appendix A for the Vision for Devon.

3.3 Stage 4 – Prioritisation

The Delivery Board Task and Finish Group met on 6 July to prioritise the issues for the Sustainable Community Strategy into a long-list (see Appendix B). The Group considered the following information within the prioritisation process:

- The criteria for prioritisation previously agreed by the group (details of criteria contained within the notes from Task and Finish Group meeting of June 11th, previously circulated to Delivery Board)
- A list of key issues for Devon, as identified by theme leads. Theme leads compiled the theme analysis for the evidence base
- Supplementary documents to the theme analysis. These documents were compiled by each of the theme leads to provide the supporting evidence and rationale for the identification of an issue as a priority issue. These documents also, in the main, took account of the findings of the equality assessment of the evidence base and the public consultation on the evidence base.
- The findings of the DSP commissioned public consultations on the key issues for Devon. These findings include the results of the Your Devon Your Views Survey and the results of the work carried out by Red Door Associates and the Community Council for Devon, as well as the relevant quality of life information contained within the County Council's Best Value Satisfaction Survey.
- The headline Themes & Issues from District Sustainable Community Strategies
- Key Issues and themes for partners (including District Councils)
- The Vision for Devon
- The Devon Sustainable Energy Network (DSEN) paper Save Money, Make Money, Cut Carbon – Towards Low Carbon Devon

3.4 Resourcing

See separate paper recommending a programme management approach for developing and delivering the 2008-2011 LAA.

3.5 Communications Plan

As set out in the Project Definition Document for this project, a Communications Plan has been developed to ensure that the key messages regarding this project are disseminated and understood by all stakeholders. The draft Communications Plan is at Appendix C.

The Communications Plan states that the majority of communication and information dissemination will be by way of the Devon Strategic Partnership website (www.devonsp.org.uk) and monthly updates in the DSP electronic newsletter 'INput'. It is recommended that each Delivery Board member is responsible for disseminating information and building understanding about the Sustainable Community Strategy and 2008-2011 LAA within their own organisation.

4. Plans for Next Period

4.1 Prioritisation

The long list of 13 priorities will be tested with the public via a Citizens Panel and a postal Survey (survey size: 4,000). Within this survey and Citizen's Panel, the public have been asked to identify the top 6 long list issues they believe the DSP should tackle in the near future. This consultation will take place from July 23rd until August 10th.

The results of this consultation will be reported to Task and Finish Group on August 31st for their consideration. The outcome of the prioritisation exercise and this further public consultation will be reported to Delivery Board for information on September 7th.

Partnership Board will consider the results of the prioritisation exercise and the public consultation regarding the priority issues for DSP to tackle on September 19th. Partnership Board will, with the support of the information from the process outlined above, decide which priority issues will form the substantive part of Devon's Sustainable Community Strategy.

The outcome of Partnership Board's decision regarding the priorities for the Sustainable Community Strategy will be considered by the DSP Conference on October 9th.

4.2 Stage 5 – Outcomes and Action Planning

Whilst guidance and clarity around the National Indicator Set, negotiation framework and future funding streams to be incorporated into the new LAA is awaited, there are some important preparatory tasks that can be undertaken. These have been broken down into the following work packages:

a) Outcomes for Devon

Devon Strategic Partnership Delivery Board is asked to consider the most appropriate way of achieving the transition from high level priorities in the Sustainable Community Strategy to LAA outcomes. Work could include:

- Theme partnerships/working groups to consider long-list priorities and how these will shape their future agendas e.g. how will the priorities shape the refresh of the Children and Young People's Plan [Need to encourage cross-working across theme partnerships too.]
- Identify leads for each priority to convene working groups
- Utilise Devon Strategic Partnership conference on 9 October to look at priorities and formulate actions/activities
- Allocate programme managers (see separate paper on programme management approach) to co-ordinate this work

b) LAA Single Pot

It is recommended that in preparation to move to a LAA single pot, two substantial pieces of work could be started now:

- Gain an understanding of current spend, particularly with regard to posts and whether they are shared posts, fixed term, permanent etc.
- Gain an understanding of the funding streams that will be incorporated into the LAA next year e.g. Connexions

c) Negotiation framework

The negotiation stage of this project will be critical in Devon Strategic Partnership achieving a locally determined LAA. According to Communities and Local Government (CLG) timetable the negotiation is due to take place between January and May 2008. Devon has expressed that it would wish to work to the original timetable resulting in an LAA from 1 April 2008 and would wish to begin the negotiation earlier than January 2008. Therefore, Devon Strategic Partnership needs to begin thinking about this process. In particular:

- Members of the negotiation team for Devon (GOSW have suggested a Team Devon event in September to build working relationships with regard to the upcoming process)
- How Devon wishes to manage the negotiation process within the Devon Strategic Partnership
- Feedback from Running LAAs Board that John Smith attends
- Who should attend the GOSW feasibility workshop on 9 August 2007

d) National Indicator Set

Government's starting point for negotiation on the content of Devon's LAA will be to focus on those 35 indicators within the national indicator set of ~200 where Devon's performance is poorest in comparison with the rest of the country. Devon Strategic Partnership has agreed in the past that this should not be the starting point for Devon and that Devon wishes to strongly advocate locally determined outcomes and targets based on locally determined priorities (through the Sustainable Community Strategy).

However, in order to prepare our hand, it may be worth working with latest version to gain an understanding of current performance (Devon and District level). This work could be lead by the DCC performance team working with partners. In addition, it would be useful to match the national indicator set with Devon Strategic Partnership's long-list priorities. It is recommended that this should be separate from work package (a) above in order to avoid influencing the establishment of locally determined outcomes base on need rather than poor performance.

5. Project Issues and Risks

5.1 Issues

An issue for this project has arisen from the recent announcement on local government reorganisation. Should the Exeter proposal proceed to implementation, options in relation to the development and management of the Devon LAA will need to be considered. In a nutshell, because Devon was one of the pilot LAA areas the current LAA reaches it's conclusion on 31 March 2008 so Devon would need to have a new LAA in place early in 2008. However, were Exeter to secure final approval as a unitary, vesting day for the new authority would be 1 April 2009. As a unitary authority Exeter would need its own LAA. Clearly there are options available for addressing this issue and an initial view from Delivery Board would help focus the necessary discussions with central government.

5.2 Risks

The following high level risk remains for the project:

High Level Risk	Progress on Mitigation Actions
<p>Loss of key staff resulting in delays to the process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sara Cretney maternity cover from 14 September onwards ▪ SDP has identified the need for a dedicated Programme Manager to provide strategic support to the partnership with regard to delivering LAA priorities. ▪ Children's Trust Programme Manager (Liam McGrath) leaves at the end of July 2008 and needs to be replaced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maternity cover for LAA development officer Sara Cretney has been identified by Devon County Council (subject to final confirmation). ▪ The Programme Management Paper to be discussed at 2 August meeting, if approved, could address the risk regarding outcome and action planning resources and could address the Safer Devon Partnership (SDP) and Children's Trust issues.

Appendix A – Vision for Devon

A Vision for Devon

Agreed by Devon Strategic Partnership July 2007

We want Devon to be:

England's greenest county with the strongest local communities, that are prosperous and welcoming with an excellent quality of life and a sustainable future

This means that we will:

- Work to ensure strong prosperous and inclusive communities with a sustainable and vibrant future
- Support our County's world class natural environment and recognise the many opportunities it presents to contribute to the well being of the county.
- Drive a step change in the actions we take to address the challenges and seize the opportunities of climate change and to reduce our impact on the environment
- Value diversity, using equality as a guiding principle.
- Ensure maximum opportunities for all to enhance skills, encourage innovation, and make a positive contribution to Devon's economy.
- Value our County's young people.
- Ensure the availability and balance of appropriate housing for Devon's residents.
- Promote personal health and well-being for all so that people feel safe, are valued and can play an active role in shaping their communities.

Appendix B – Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities Long-list

1. Tackling Health Inequalities

This means supporting those geographical communities and groups of people who, because of their social, environmental and economic circumstances, experience poorer health.

2. Inspiring young people to achieve their best and supporting them in tackling the issues that concern them most.

This means enabling and supporting all Devon's young people, particularly those in most need, to lead fulfilled and productive lives.

It also means addressing the issue of bullying and the need for appropriate transport to access social, education and employment opportunities

3. Tackling behaviour that detracts from the quality of life in our communities.

This means dealing with behaviour that makes people feel unsafe in their homes and their local communities

It also means tackling domestic violence.

4. Reducing alcohol and drug use.

This means addressing the causes and effects of alcohol and drug abuse.

5. Helping people to take an active part in shaping the places in which they live and the public services they receive.

This means ensuring people can influence decisions affecting their local area.

This means encouraging and assisting people to play a key part in developing their communities and shaping their future.

6. Making services more easily accessible.

This means addressing the rural isolation experienced by many of Devon communities by developing appropriate solutions

It also means ensuring that all people (particularly the vulnerable and most disadvantaged) can access information about services.

7. Providing the right climate for enterprise and innovation, strengthening Devon's economy through productivity and reducing economic inequalities.

This means equipping the people and businesses of Devon with the right skills and infrastructure to be able to face future economic challenges and capture new opportunities.

By raising the productivity of Devon's businesses we aim to ensure that they and their employees are able to meet the challenges of an increasingly knowledge based, globalised, competitive market and ensure the long-term viability of the communities to which the businesses are linked.

It also means reducing economic inequalities within communities and between different areas of Devon by focusing on helping communities to help themselves to realise their potential. A key plank of this is by providing appropriate location based solutions to regenerate the (economically worst performing) 12 priority communities within Devon.

8. Encouraging constructive community living

This means respecting and celebrating people's differences, whether that relates to age, sexuality, religious faith, ethnic group, race or gender.

It also means recognising the contribution cultural activity makes to community cohesion.

9. Adapting to and mitigating climate change.

This includes creating a low carbon future.

It also means managing flood risk across Devon.

It means reconnecting Devon's fragmented habitats to enable adaptation to climate change.

It also means maximising the opportunities provided by climate change.

10. Being less wasteful and managing waste more effectively

This means encouraging a co-ordinated approach to waste management

It also means encouraging re-use and recycling

11. Protect and support Devon's natural environment and improving the look and feel of the places we live.

This means protecting Devon's environment in a way which also realises the benefits and opportunities it offers to the County's well-being.

It also means ensuring that people feel pride in their local built environment.

12. Planning for enough of the right kind of housing

This means enabling the provision of housing to meet the needs of all.

13. Dealing with the opportunities and challenges of Devon's changing population

This means :

Promoting choice, independence and well being through wide ranging support and services for people in their own homes and local community settings, where ever possible, and reducing reliance on institutional care and emergency / urgent care.

Developing support, services and facilities to meet the needs of an ageing population, people with complex disabilities, long term conditions and people with mental health problems and their carers.

Maximising the contribution that all adults and carers in Devon can make to Devon's economy and community life.

Appendix C – Project Communications Plan